



# BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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## For Immediate Release

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## Public tours of emergency center

Richland, Wash.—Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) is opening its doors to local residents to tour the county's Emergency Operations Center and see the county's 9-1-1 operators in action during an **Open House on Saturday, September 22, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.** The event is part of the agency's Emergency Preparedness Month activities.

"This is an opportunity for area residents to see and hear more about what goes on behind the scenes to protect life and property in Benton County," said Steve Sautter, public information Officer for BCES. "I think residents will be impressed with the work that the county has done."

In addition to just seeing the 9-1-1 Center, children will be able to practice making emergency calls on the agency's 9-1-1 phone simulator. This has proven to be a very popular hands-on exercise for children and their parents in the past.

The Benton-Franklin Chapter of the American Red Cross will be serving refreshments from their Emergency Response Vehicle during the Open House. In addition, Benton County's Mobile Command Unit will be available for tours.

BCES is located in Richland on Truman Avenue at the west end of Queensgate Avenue at Exit 3 off I-182. Area residents can call (509) 628-2600 for additional details and directions.

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